

REMARKS

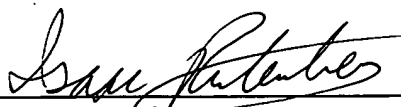
In the Advisory Action under reply, the Examiner declined to enter the amendments to the claims made in applicant's Response of December 13, 2006 ("applicant's prior Response"). The Examiner stated, however, that claims 1, 6-10, and 15-17 would have been allowable had those amendments been entered. The Examiner confirmed these points in a telephone call to the undersigned on February 16, 2007.

Applicant has consequently cancelled all pending claims other than 1, 6-10, and 15-17 (i.e., applicant has cancelled claims 3-5, 12-14, 18, 20, and 23-34). Applicant has also amended claims 1, 9, and 10 exactly as they were amended in applicant's prior Response. Specifically, claims 1 and 10 have been amended to incorporate the limitation of claims 5 and 14, respectively. Claims 1, 9, and 10 have been amended to clarify the Markush language used therein. No new matter is introduced by these amendments, and the arguments set forth in applicant's prior Response regarding the rejections of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §112 and §103(a) are incorporated herein by reference. Applicant further notes that the amendments are made without prejudice and for the sole purpose of expediting examination; applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the canceled subject matter.

Applicant submits that the pending claims of the application are in condition for allowance, and prompt issuance of a notice of allowance is requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning this communication, or would like to discuss the application, the art, or other pertinent matters, a telephone call to the undersigned would be welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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